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RICHMOND BALLET  
SAIDERA BY DARRELL GRAND MOULTRIE  
DANCER: MAGGIE SMALL  
PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH FERGUSON

## Denise Saunders Thompson

Denise Saunders Thompson has extensive experience in non-profit and for-profit, established or start-up organizations. She has advised organizations on administrative, programmatic and fundraising issues including strategic plans, policy and procedures, communications programs, budgeting and contracts. Currently, Denise is the President & CEO for The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Inc., a non-profit service organization, and President & CEO of D.d.Saunders & Associates, Inc., a comprehensive fine arts advisory firm offering artist management/representation, arts producing, consulting, and production services. She has held positions in academia with American University (Professorial Lecturer/Graduate Arts Management Degree Program) and Howard University (Professor/Theatre Manager/Producing Artistic Director and Manager of Cramton Auditorium). She is Co-Founder of PlayRight Performing Arts Center, Inc., and former Business Manager of The Malone Group, Inc., a non-profit arts organization in Washington, D.C. that co-produced Black Nativity at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for six years. Denise currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Dance/USA and is a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA), Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA), and Theatre Communications Group (TCG). Freelancing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and across the nation in production, Thompson has held positions at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Lincoln Theatre, Alliance Theatre Company, National Black Arts Festival, 1996 Olympic Arts Festival, 1996 Olympics, Several Dancers Core, the Atlanta Dance Initiative, the Mark Taper Forum, the Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Harrah's Marina Hotel Casino as well as other numerous positions. In addition, she is a grant recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts, St. Paul Companies, and the DC Arts and Humanities Commission. Thompson holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles and a BFA from Howard University. Mrs. Thompson is the proud mother of Kellen and wife to Darrin Thompson, Sr.

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